SUBJECTS.

Dewan's reply.—The increased rates of tariff valuation on copra and cocoanut oil and the levy of duty on oil-cake came into force only from Ani 1082. It is far too early to make any change. The rates have to be allowed a fair trial. The rates are limited to a period of three years. The export duty on bones will be retained.

51. Administration of State finances.

Mr. A. Govinda Menon (Member, Parur Taluk) prayed for a fair and equitable administration of the State finances, in the matter of collection and distribution. He said that the expenditure, under such heads, as education, agriculture, &c., was inadequate and should be increased; that agricultural farms should be established, the pay of the teachers of primary schools should be increased, and that technical education should be encouraged. He urged retrenchment as regards expenditure under Oottupuras and Devaswams, D. P. W. and Forest. To increase the revenues of the State, he suggested the levy of tax on all incomes except those of persons following the agricultural industry, the introduction of the municipal system in all the important towns and the imposition of municipal tax, the development of the fisheries so as to be a source of income to the State and its subjects, and the development of the salt industry. He also referred to the allotments made for public works in the different Divisions and said that this was being done without any regard to the revenue derived from the several Divisions or to their wants. He suggested that Government should allot annually for each Division a sum for minor works proportionate to its needs and its revenues and that the sum should be spent through a Board with the Division Peishkar as President and a certain number of officials and non-officials as members. If this was done, he said that 99 per cent. of the local questions which came up before the Assembly would disappear from it and that the people would seldom have room to complain of the neglect of their concerns.

Dewan's reply.—There are several suggestions which the member has made. Some of them are by no means unreasonable. If the member will put what he has said in writing and send it up, I shall peruse his views carefully and I have no doubt that some of the suggestions will be of help to me.

52. Removal of restriction on cultivation of tobacco and bhang.

Mr. Subramonia Karayalan (Member, Shencottah Taluk) requested that, in the interests of the tax-payers the restriction on land-owners from cultivating tobacco and bhang be removed.

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